(f) whether any action has been taken in this regard, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prices of some non-scheduled formulations have gone up with extent of increase varying from case to case. Drug companies are free to revise the prices of such formulations as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. Increase in the prices of some scheduled formula tions has also been allowed as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(c) to *(t)* The required details to the extent available have been given in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 635 answered on 29% Feb., 198(8. Increase in the prices is mainly due to increase in the cost of input materials.

Non-Conventional Energy Sources

1204. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) what has been the additional units of power generated through non-conventional energy sources like solar power and bio-gas during the last three years;

(b) in view of the critical power situation what specific programmes have been formulated during the last three years to. step up the power production through alternate energy sources; and

(c) whether Government propose to study the alternate energy production programme of China for implementation in this country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) (a) and (b) Various non-conventional energy devices installed throughout the country have generated over 10 million units of power mostly from solar wind and biomass sources. In addition solar thermal devices installed so far are expected to be generating over 200 million Kwhrs. of thermal energy per year. The energy generation through around 9 lakh biogas plant$_s$ and energy saving effected by around 30 lakh improved chulahs installed so far is estimated to be equivalent to about 5 million tonnes of wood per year. Specific programmes for power generation through alternate energy sources include establishment of wind farms, biomass and agricultural residue-based power plants, solar thermal power plants and photovoltaic power units, mini and micro hydel plants etc. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has prepared a paper entitled—"Eneigy—2001 Perspective Plan" which proposes production of 15000 MW of power by year 2001, in addition to extensive application of renewable sources of energy for heating and cooking. The pace of imple-mentation of this proposed programme would, however, depend on the availability of financial resources.

(c) The Government is aware of the alternate energy programme of China-Setting up of Post Offices

1205. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a num ber of post offices were closed down due to the change of norms in the setting up of post offices during the last three years;

(b) if so, how many post offices were affected by this change of norms in Andhra Postal Circle;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a fresh decision has been taken to establish some more post offices in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh in order to set off the adverse impact made by the change of norms; and

(d) if so, how many post offices ars proposed to be opened in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a)